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NESTING BALD EAGLE (*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*) AT PARKSVILLE LAKE, CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST, POLK COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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and
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We documented the first known active Bald Eagle nest for Polk County and the Blue Ridge physiographic province in Tennessee in January 2006 and reconfirmed nesting activity in 2007. The nest was located in a dominant "super-canopy" 35.6 inch diameter breast height (dbh) white pine (*Pinus strobus*) along the shoreline of Parksville Lake (Ocoee Reservoir No. 1). The nest tree was in Cherokee National Forest in a 94-year old white pine stand managed by the USDA Forest Service.

We first discovered the nest on 20 January 2006. Subsequently, skilled observers began to monitor its status on a frequent basis. A monitoring log was established by the Forest Service to maintain records of the date, time, and observer for each visit, along with notes on number and age class (sexual maturity) of eagles and behaviors. The nest was observed using a spotting scope on 62 calendar days during the period 16 January 2006 and 23 September 2006; and on 41 calendar days during the period 10 January 2007 and 3 October 2007.

In 2006 we observed incubation on 17 February. By 1 April 2006 we could see one eaglet, and by 26 June 2006 we saw an eaglet in flight. The following year we noted incubation on 2 February, first observed one eaglet on 22 March, and first observed two eaglets on 25 March 2007. This life history information is consistent with that reported by Nicholson (1997). In 2007, one eaglet was much more active and appeared to be dominant over the other. The second eaglet was not visible for days at a time. Often, the second hatched eaglet is out-competed by the older eaglet when food supplies are inadequate and does not survive to the fledging

stage (NatureServe 2007). At this nest both eaglets fledged on or about 2 June 2007.

This nest was significant because of the land use history of the Ocoee River watershed. The Ocoee River drains the Copper Basin, site of copper and iron mining, mineral processing and sulfuric acid production for 150 years. As a result, a 10-12 mi^2 area was de-vegetated by the early 1900s. Exposed soils were subject to massive erosion, which contributed tens of thousands of acre-feet of sediment to the river. Much of the material now lies within Ocoee No. 1 (Parksville Lake), where it has settled into a large "mudflat" at the eastern end of the reservoir adjacent to the nest. Large volumes of mining and industrial wastes were also discharged into tributaries of the Ocoee River, resulting in significant contaminant loads (Eldridge et al. 2003).

As a result, the biological integrity of the river is severely compromised. Total copper and zinc concentrations in all reaches of the Ocoee River exceed State of Tennessee criteria for continuous concentrations needed for protection of fish and aquatic life. Iron and manganese are also of concern in all reaches because of bioaccumulation within the food chain. Concentrations of these two metals and total polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) within the sediment, surface water, and/or fish tissue exceed human health screening values (Eldridge et al., 2003). Levels of mercury may also be increasing. Environmental contaminants in the diet are known to affect bald eagle reproduction elsewhere in the United States (NatureServe 2007). In summary, it appears that the fish community has recovered adequately, from a biomass standpoint, to support a nesting pair of eagles. It is also likely that the birds supplement their diet from the Hiwassee River, widely known for its abundance of native and stocked fish.

Despite the odds, this pair of bald eagles nested successfully for two consecutive years. On a positive note, tributary creeks flowing into the Ocoee River and Parksville Lake from the Cherokee National Forest, including Sylco, Bakers, and Greasy Creeks, provide organic matter, nutrients, and relatively clean water (Eldridge et al. 2003). Based on fish monitoring data collected by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1995, 2001 and 2006, fish species diversity, relative abundance (catch rate), proportion of native species, and Fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) Score have increased (Amy Wales, Tennessee Valley Authority , Pers. comm.). Although some benthic invertebrates and phytoplankton, along with shiners, darters and sculpins are absent, fish including largemouth bass and yellow perch are present (Eldridge et al. 2003).

In July 2007 the needles of the nest tree turned reddish brown. Although the dying foliage partially obscured the view, the nest appeared diminished or in disrepair. A site visit 25 July 2007 visit confirmed that the nest tree was dead. There was no obvious accumulation of nest material found at the base of the tree. Possible causes of tree death are lightning strike, prior fungal infection which affected mature white pine throughout the area, and/or extreme drought conditions for the summer of 2007. The Forest Service and Tennessee Ornithological Society volunteers continue to search for signs of re-nesting in the vicinity in 2008.

[NOTE: As of July 2008 no new nest had been located, but sightings of an adult pair in the vicinity were recorded.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following USDA Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest employees and volunteers who assisted with monitoring the eagle nest: Mary Dodson, Ken Dubke, Doug Geren, Jim Herrig, Ken Nichols, Mark Pistrang and Bo Reynolds.

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BREEDING BIRD RECORDS FROM THE UNAKA MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE FROM 2000 TO 2003

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I spent the summers of 2000 to 2003 on Roan Mountain as the seasonal ecologist for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Although nest searching was not a part of the job, I made a concerted effort to find as many nests as I could while performing the actions of the job. I found over 100 nests, but here I report only on records that contribute new information to the local ornithological records. For additional information please contact the author.

Most of the records are from the Roan Mountain massif in Carter County, Tennessee. A few records are from Unicoi County, Tennessee and adjacent counties in North Carolina.

The Roan Mountain massif runs from Hugh's Gap to US 19E in Elk Park, North Carolina a distance of 30 km. This area includes Roan High Knob, Carver's Gap, Round Bald, Jane Bald, Grassy Ridge Bald, Yellow Mountain and Bald and the Hump Mountains. The massif ranges in elevation from 610 m at its base to 1915 m at Roan High Knob near the Roan Mountain Gardens. One additional nest included in this article is from Unaka Mountain in Unicoi County, Tennessee.

Oak-hickory forest communities are predominant below about 1525 m in elevation. Above this altitude are northern hardwood forests which grade into red spruce-Fraser fir forests, grass and heath balds, and other less prominent plant communities.

Seventeen nest records are reported here. Ranges of dates for nests with eggs, and nests with young and earliest fledgling dates in Tennessee are reported in Nicholson (1997). The following records report one extension on nests with eggs, two extensions on nests with young and one extension on observed fledglings. A range of dates for nests with young is provided for Veery, which is not provided in Nicholson (1997). A nest elevation record for Field Sparrows is also noted below.

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)

A Brown Creeper nest was found on 20 July 2000 just off the Appalachian Trail west of Carver's Gap. Two adults were observed going into the nest with food. The nest was in an approximately 11 m tall dead Fraser fir tree about 9 m up the snag and under some bark. The tree was about 90% free of bark. The nest was located behind a 10 x 11-inch piece of bark hanging from the snag. Both adults were seen carrying insects in their bills. Adults would spend approximately five seconds at the nest and would leave without the insects. On 28 July the adults were again observed going to the nest with insects. On 10 August an adult Brown Creeper was observed with a fledgling Brown Creeper near the nest.

The known range of Brown Creeper nests with young is 14-20 May and the range with fledglings is 15 May to 31 July (Nicholson 1997). This nests falls well outside these dates for a nest with young and with fledglings still dependent on parents.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)

Three Veery nests were located during the 2000-2003 time period. A Veery was found sitting on a nest on 26 May 2001 on Unaka Mountain. A nest containing three eggs and one young was found on 31 May 2001 along the Overmountain Victory Trail above Sugar Hollow in the Roan Mountain area. The third nest was located on 11 July 2002 in Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area. It contained two young.

The *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* (Nicholson 1997) does not list a range of dates for Veery nests with young. The recent findings presented in this article provides a range of 31 May for the earliest known nest with young and 11 July for the latest known nest with young.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

Ten Golden-winged Warbler nests were found during the 2000-2003 time period (Table 1). Trently (2002) gives details of nests found on 11 June 2000 and 11 May, 18 May and 18 June 2001.

Table 1. Information on Golden-winged Warbler nests found during the 2000-2003 time period.

Nest Location	Date	Elevation (m)	# of Eggs	# of Nestlings
Hampton Creek Cove	11-Jun-00	1210	4 GW and 1 cowbird egg	0
Yellow Mountain Gap	19-Jun-00	1426	0	4
TN Route 421	6-May-01	1073	0	0
	19-May	1073	5	0
Hampton Creek Cove	11-May-01	1006	1	0
Hampton Creek Cove	18-May-01	1210	0	0
	29-May	1210	3	0
	18-Jun	1210	0	0
Hampton Creek Cove	18-Jun-01	—	—	—
Hampton Creek Cove	21-Jul-01	976	0	0
Hampton Creek Cove	27-May-03	1100	3	0
Hampton Creek Cove	28-May-03	1200	1	3 GW and 1 cowbird yng.
Hampton Creek Cove	4-Jun-03	1183	1	0

The Golden-winged Warbler nest found on 11 June 2000 was the first golden-wing nest found in Tennessee to be parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird

(*Molothrus ater*) (Trently 2002). A nest found in the same location on 28 May 2003 was also parasitized by this species.

The *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* (Nicholson 1997) lists the range of dates for Golden-winged Warbler nests with eggs as 28 May to 9 June and for Golden-winged Warblers nests with young as 2 June to 26 June. The recent findings presented in this article provide an egg date extension to 11 June and a nest with young early date extension to 28 May. Both extensions were in nests parasitized by a Brown-headed Cowbird.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

Two Field Sparrow nests were located in the 2000-2003 time period.

A Field Sparrow nest containing four eggs was found on 18 May 2001 in Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area. The nest was made from grasses and positioned on the ground between the branches of a hawthorn shrub. The elevation of the nest location was approximately 1234 m.

Field Sparrows are rare from the high elevations of Roan Mountain. The highest elevation at which there is recent evidence of Field Sparrow nesting is around 1000 m (Nicholson 1997). Rhoads (1895) observed Field Sparrows throughout the state except for the summit of Roan Mountain. Stupka (1963) reported Field Sparrows nesting on grassy balds at 1300-1500 m in the western Smoky Mountains.

A Field Sparrow nest containing three eggs was located on 9 July 2003 on Round Bald near Engine Gap. The nest was positioned 0.5 m off the ground in a blueberry (*Vaccinium spp.*) shrub growing within the grassy bald. The elevation of the nest location was approximately 1722 m. To my knowledge, this is the highest nesting elevation known for this species in the southeast. The nest contained three eggs on 18 July and three young on 25 July. The nest was empty on 2 August.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

A Vesper Sparrow nest containing three featherless nestlings was located on Yellow Mountain Bald, Avery County, North Carolina on 3 June 2000. The nest was well concealed within the short grass of the bald. The elevation of the nest location was approximately 1573 m. Horned Larks were also present during the nesting season here.

Vesper Sparrows breed in Johnson and Carter Counties in Tennessee above 2500 ft (762 m) elevation (Knight 1994). Their breeding habitat is described as open, short-grass (heavily grazed) fields, often on a moderate to steep slope, with scattered shrubs, fence posts, or rocks for song perches (Mengel 1965, Simpson 1978, LeGrand and Potter 1980). Yellow Mountain Bald is grazed by cattle, which maintain the habitat qualifications needed for nesting.

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I would like to thank the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy for giving me the opportunity to work on Roan Mountain. I would also like to thank them for their conservation efforts on and in the Roan Mountain area.

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MINUTES OF THE TOS 2006 FALL MEETING

The TOS 2006 Fall Meeting was held in Clarksville 27-29 October 2006, hosted by the Knoxville Chapter of TOS and the Warioto Chapter of the Tennessee Audubon Society. Field trips were offered to Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, Dunbar Cave, Bicentennial Trail, and Pace Point. The meeting was called to order by President Danny Gaddy. Secretary Laura McCall announced that a quorum had been met. The minutes from the Spring Meeting, held 6 May 2006, were distributed and accepted with minor amendments.

Danny thanked all those who had been involved in the planning and organization of this meeting, including Daniel Moss, members of the Warioto Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Chuck Nicholson, and members of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mac McWhirter distributed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Balance Sheet for review by the Directors. He noted Investments totaling over $217,000, Liabilities of $9,531, and Total Equity of $213,000, including a general reserve of $125,000. Revenues for the period ended 28 October 2006, were almost $22,600; expenses totaled less than $14,000. With the anticipated publication of another two editions of *The Migrant* at a cost of about $6,400, the current excess revenues over expenses of $9,000 will ultimately come down to about $2,000.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

Melinda Welton requested that the minutes be sent out shortly after the meeting while the meeting was still fresh in everyone's mind. After a short discussion, it was decided that a one-month turn-around period would be reasonable, and Secretary Laura McCall said she could probably manage that. Laura will email the Draft Minutes to Chuck, who will post them on the website; only Directors who were present may make amendments.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FUND: Chuck Nicholson reported for Charlie Muise, outgoing chair of the committee. Six grant applications were received, and three were funded, for a total award amount of $1,500. Funded projects:

- **Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park ($900)** – to provide support for students and interns to study breeding birds (will pay for housing and other expenses)
- **Susan Bradfield/Cathy Shaw ($300)** – for equipment to detect and band Saw-whet Owl in Nashville
- **Goodpasture Award – Sandy Bivens ($300)** – to set up a new banding station at Shelby Bottoms in Nashville

Mac McWhirter made a motion that if any current operating funds specified for use as Conservation and Research/ Goodpasture Grants are not awarded by the end of the calendar year, those surplus funds will be allocated to the Conser-

vation and Research Fund Reserve for use in future years. The motion was seconded by Ron Hoff and passed unanimously.

Danny noted the importance of the Conservation and Research Fund to our organization. There are now two vacancies on the committee, one vacated by Charlie Muise, and another by Linda Zemple. Danny will balance regional representation when making these appointments.

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE (CPC): Melinda Welton, Chair, reported on actions taken by the committee on four conservation issues.

1) TOS sent a letter to EPA urging the ban of the pesticide carbofuran. This pesticide is among the most highly toxic pesticides known to birds. A single granule is lethal, and more than fifty species, including Bald and Golden Eagle, Eastern Bluebird, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Pintail, and Blue-winged Teal, have been documented as having died from carbofuran poisoning. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that "There are no known conditions under which carbofuran can be used without killing migratory birds."

On 3 August 2006, EPA cancelled ALL uses of carbofuran and the pesticide will not be eligible for re-registration. For less than 2% of the current uses there will be a 4-year phase-out period for 6 minor crops: artichokes, spinach for seed, cucumbers, chili peppers, sunflowers, and pine seedlings.

2) TOS wrote to our TN congressional delegation urging them to join the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus. Four Tennessee congressmen have signed on: John Tanner (D-8th), Marsha Blackburn (R-7th), Bart Gordon (D-6th) and Lincoln Davis (D-4th).

3) TOS wrote to TVA in opposition to extending the summer high water levels in Lake Barkley into the fall because of the impact this action would have on migrating shorebirds and other waterbirds. TVA is apparently leaning towards making no changes because the resulting environmental changes would require an EIS and they do not have the funding for an EIS.

However, on 14 September Representative Whitfield of KY submitted to congress H.R. 6087, the so-called "Lake Barkley Water Level Improvement Act." This bill would force the lake level change that was the subject of the Environmental Assessment that we commented on earlier this fall. The bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN 2nd District) is a member of that committee and the chair of the Water Resources & Environment subcommittee where the bill likely is now. Congress will be back in session after the election. It is very possible that Whitfield will try to get the bill attached as a rider to an appropriations bill or some other must-pass legislation. The CPC has drafted a letter to Representative Duncan for the TOS President to sign asking Duncan to oppose HR 6087 and thereby kill it in committee. The CPC would like to present this letter to the TOS Board for their endorsement.

4) The TVA Draft Land Use Policy is a current pressing issue. The TVA Board's Community Relations Committee has drafted an excellent Land Use Policy to be

presented to the full Board for approval in late November. The Committee obviously took into consideration the vast majority of comments submitted during the public comment period that were in opposition to the sale of TVA lands for residential development.

Now that the draft is public, TVA is being flooded with letters from developers wanting a less restrictive policy! The CPC has drafted a letter strongly supporting the draft policy as-is. The CPC would like to present this letter to the TOS Board for their endorsement. We hope this will add even more weight to your comments.

Chuck Nicholson added that the comment period on the TVA draft policy ends this week and urged everyone who hadn't already done so to submit his or her comments. It was suggested that someone should post a reminder of the deadline on TN-Birds.

Melinda said the Committee needs to recruit additional members to fill vacancies. Van Harris agreed to fill the vacancy, representing West Tennessee. If you have an interest in serving on the committee, contact Danny Gaddy.

OTHER VACANCIES: Candidates are still being evaluated for the Conservation and Research Committee. Theresa Graham has informed Danny that she will be resigning as editor of *The Warbler* as of May 2007. We will be looking for someone with a willingness to serve who is either good at or willing to learn editing.

TN BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (TBRC): Dean Edwards, Secretary of the Committee, thanked Chuck Nicholson for making updates to the Records Committee website. Dean reported on the makeup of the committee, as some of the members' terms are expiring as of this meeting:

- John Henderson – finishing his first term, will return for a second term
- Chris Sloan – finishing his second term and must leave
- Rob Peebles – will be leaving committee
- Kevin Calhoon – has been an alternate on the committee; will now be a regular committee member
- Jan Shaw – will be appointed as a committee member
- Philip Casteel – will be appointed as an alternate
- Dean Edwards will continue to serve as Committee Secretary, and Don Miller and Dick Preston will continue to serve as committee members.

The Committee had a busy summer, acting on 13 records. They added five new state species: Mottled Duck, Thayer's Gull, Inca Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Among other species acted upon were California Gull, which was moved off the Provisional List; Varied Thrush reported by Dr. Pitts; and White-tailed Kite reported by Daniel Moss.

Dean also reported that the archives of the TBRC have finally been located after being lost at the University of Tennessee Library in Knoxville. They can now be viewed at the UTK library. There's also some interest in digitizing the archives.

TOS WEBSITE/DIGITIZATION OF *THE MIGRANT*: Chuck Nicholson reported that the web hosting account has been changed, and now the website has much more disk space for a lower price. Chuck showed the Bird Finding Guide and made a call for people to submit favorite birding sites so they may be added to the website.

The digitized *Migrant* is now available for browsing, but is still not searchable. Mac McWhirter asked whether a searchable feature is anticipated; Dan Mooney said they've consulted with SORA, which is reluctant to do state publications, so they have approached the UTK library. The library has shown interest, but they are unable to handle the project just yet.

Chuck showed the TBRC Archive and the TOS Website. The counter was already at 297 since the website account switch on Wednesday; it had been nearly 200,000 before the switch.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Ron Hoff asked whether there's a list of birds that need documentation. Dean said that is in the works.

Ron asked if members could elect to not get a paper copy of the *Tennessee Warbler*. Danny said that the issue should go before the Publications Committee.

Chuck needs updated officers list for TOS chapters to post on the TOS website; Laura does too.

West TN Vice-President vacancy – Dick Preston has agreed to fill this; needs to be approved. His nomination was approved unanimously.

Susan McWhirter asked if a special thank-you could be made to Theresa Graham for her years of service as Editor of the *Tennessee Warbler*. She suggested a letter and a standing ovation at the Spring Meeting. Melinda Welton made a motion that we present her with a framed photograph and plaque (incoming president Richard Connors can take the picture and write the letter). The motion passed unanimously.

Rob Lane and Jon Mann will be leaving the area. Dan and Laurie Mooney are selling their house and moving south to Louisiana. The Publications Committee will need a chair.

TOS Winter 2007 Meeting: The location and date of the Winter Meeting were discussed, but no decision was made.

Danny thanked Daniel Moss for all his hard work in putting this meeting together. Daniel thanked Barbara Wilber, Polly Rooker, Dan and Laurie Mooney, and the Knoxville Chapter of TOS for all they did to make the meeting a success.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jennings McCall, Secretary

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ABSTRACTS FOR 2006 TOS FALL SYMPOSIUM

GRASSLAND BIRD COMMUNITIES ON MILITARY, PRIVATE, AND TWRA LAND IN THE BIG BARRENS REGION, TN AND KY

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Military installations have a tremendous opportunity to provide for the basic military mission and contribute significantly to wildlife conservation goals at the same time. Fort Campbell Army Base, on the Tennessee-Kentucky border, provides early successional habitats that are created and maintained as a by-product of military training needs and activities through the intentional and accidental use of fire. The base has sustained an almost complete compliment of grassland species and provides an excellent opportunity to study grassland birds. Continuing a project started in 1999, we expanded our bird monitoring efforts to include areas outside the base in the 1.2 million acre area known as the Big Barrens Region of Tennessee and Kentucky. We monitored 152 bird nests (92 on Fort Campbell) in native warm season grasslands in the Big Barrens region from May to July, 2006. To provide baseline demographic information, we monitored 22 Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 62 Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), 20 Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), and 16 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nests. We also measured bird density and vegetation at 5 fields on Fort Campbell, 2 on Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Management Areas, and 6 on private land. Our results indicate that these three grassland habitats support somewhat different bird communities. We observed higher densities of grassland obligate species (e.g., Henslow's Sparrow) on military and private fields. Other species that use grassland habitat (e.g., Field Sparrow) were more evenly distributed across all three field types. Nesting success on Fort Campbell was similar to that observed in previous studies on the base.

BIRD MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES AT SEVEN ISLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE IN KNOX COUNTY, TN - A PROGRESS REPORT

Jim Giocomo, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Seven Islands is a 360 acre (145-Ha) wildlife refuge acquired by the Seven Islands Foundation in 2001, managed by Knox County Parks and Recreation Department, and located in a bend of the French Broad River in southeastern Knox County, Tennessee. A significant portion of the refuge is currently being converted from hay production and agriculture to native warm-season grasslands. Over the past few years, several bird-monitoring programs were initiated with many partner organizations including the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Projects include Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS; 2005-present) in cooperation with the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, The Knoxville Zoo, and the Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Department of the University

of Tennessee (over 1,500 birds banded so far), Northern Mockingbird study (2005-2006) comparing populations at Seven Islands (rural setting) to populations on the University of Tennessee Agricultural campus (urban setting), monitoring winter sparrow populations (2005-present), monitoring owl populations including Northern Saw-whet (2004-present) and Eastern Screech Owl populations (banding to start in 2006), monitoring grassland birds including Grasshopper Sparrow populations (2003-present) and Northern Bobwhite populations (2005-present), and monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes (2006) along the riparian corridor. In addition to the bird monitoring and banding programs, many structures and habitat improvements have been made to enhance the bird use of Seven Islands including the construction of a small water impoundment to create more wetland area and structures for nesting species including Wood Duck, Eastern Screech Owls, Eastern Bluebirds, and Chimney Swifts, to name a few.

WOODPECKER COMMUNITY STRUCTURE IN A BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD FOREST IN NORTHWEST TENNESSEE

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The competitive exclusion theory states that no two organisms can have exactly the same niche. Woodpeckers belong to the bark foraging guild and are known to partition resources, possibly to reduce competition. The goal of this study was to determine how niche breadth and niche overlap change with the arrival of migratory woodpeckers during the winter. Observations of woodpecker location and behavior were taken every 30 seconds for 15 minutes. We constructed time budgets and calculated niche breadth and overlap for two migratory and two resident species. Aggression was observed between residents and migrants suggesting that competitive interactions may be occurring. Niche overlap was observed for some niche aspects, but other niche characteristics showed partitioning. While preliminary observations suggest some overlap between residents and migrants, future studies will attempt to determine if this overlap is due to competitive interactions or is the result of similar foraging strategies.

WINTER WEIGHT VARIATION IN CAROLINA CHICKADEES

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Can body weight be used to determine the sex of a Carolina Chickadee? Male and female chickadees look alike, but the average weight (in northwest Tennessee) of males is 10.5 g compared to 9.6 g for females. Variations occur in most biological traits and body weight is no exception. Time of day and locality (i.e., West Tennessee versus East Tennessee) have significant impacts on winter body weight while year, season, and age of the bird have little, if any, effect. My conclusion is a qualified yes: in some cases, but not all, body weight will indicate the sex of a chickadee.

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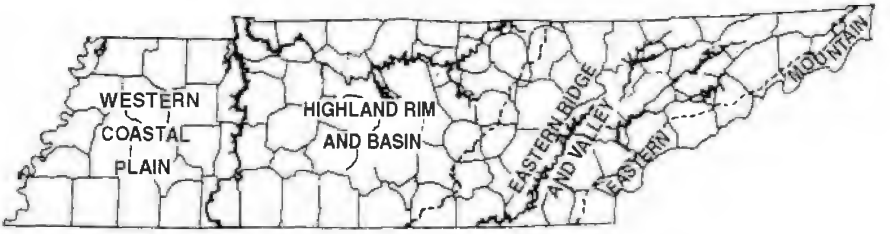
THE SPRING SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2007

Drought conditions and a late freeze highlighted the weather scene this season. Following a dry winter, all regions received well below average rainfall this spring. March was considerably warmer than usual and vegetation responded with early growth. Also, early arrival dates were set for several migrants. However, a hard freeze in early April zapped vegetation and stalled migration. Impacts of both the drought and freeze would be felt into the summer and beyond.

A good variety of migrants were found this season although numbers varied regionally through the season. Rarity highlights included Western Grebe and Roseate Spoonbill in West Tennessee, a lingering Common Redpoll in Middle Tennessee, and Glossy Ibis in East Tennessee. A Pine Siskin nest at Roan Mountain represented a first for the state. Many other notable records are in the regional reports.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide - reported by
im - immature
Is - Island
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
N.P. - National Park
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Spring rainfall amounts were unusually low in the region, while temperatures were, by comparison, more normal. Unusual sightings included two Western Grebes in Henry County, a Ruff in Lake County, and a Bell's Vireo in Shelby County. Two Roseate Spoonbills, seen at

Shelby Forest in May, represent the first spring record of the species in the region (and state?). A Hudsonian Godwit, notable itself, was found at the EARTH Complex in late March, a record early date for the region. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Henry County provides one of few spring observations for West Tennessee. Among regularly occurring species, record early arrival dates for West Tennessee were established for Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Orchard Oriole.

Goose - Rail: **Ross's Goose**: 2 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (Jay Walko). **Blue-winged Teal**: 20 May (1 female & nest with 8 eggs) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Greater Scaup**: 10 Mar (30) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Hooded Merganser**: 12 May (3) Shelby Co (MTOS). **Common Loon**: 8 May (3) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT), lrs. **WESTERN GREBE**: 7 Mar (2) Pace Point, Henry Co (MCT). **American White Pelican**: 28 Apr (4) Shelby Co (MTOS), lrs. **Anhinga**: 17 May (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (Dick Preston). **American Bittern**: 17 Apr (1) Shelby Co (Susan Riley); 26 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT). **Least Bittern**: 19 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **ROSEATE SPOONBILL**: 9 May (2) Shelby Forest (Dick Preston, MTOS). **Osprey**: 5 Mar (1) Reelfoot L., Lake Co (NaM), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 30 Apr (2) Carroll Co (MCT); 5 May (180) EARTH Complex (JRW), max; 29 May (15) Gibson Co (MAG), good number there. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 11 May (1) Shelby Farms (JRW), lrs. **King Rail**: 19 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Sora**: 2 May (1) Lake Co (MCT).

Plover - Tern: **Black-bellied Plover**: 2 May (6) Phillipy (MCT). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 28 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW), lrs. **Willet**: 24 Apr (1) Black Bayou, Lake Co (MAG); 2 May (2) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 17 Apr (1200) Dyer Co (MCT), max. **Upland Sandpiper**: 8 Apr (12) EARTH Complex (JRW), max. **Hudsonian Godwit**: 30 Mar - 1 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (JRW), very early. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 14 Apr (4) EARTH Complex (JRW), ers. **Western Sandpiper**: 14 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (JRW), ers. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 10 May (78) EARTH Complex (JRW), max. **Baird's Sandpiper**: 31 Mar (4) EARTH Complex (JRW), ers. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 14 Apr (4800+) EARTH Complex (JRW), max. **Stilt Sandpiper**: 1 May (11) Phillipy (MAG). **Ruff**: 27 Apr - 1 May (1 male) Phillipy (MCT, JRW, NaM, MAG). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 25 Mar (1) EARTH Complex (JRW), ers; 17 Apr (78) Dyer Co (MCT), max. **Wilson's Phalarope**: 17 Apr/2 May (1/2) Phillipy (MCT); 28 Apr (5) EARTH Complex (JRW); 2 May (11) Black Bayou, Lake Co (MCT). **Herring Gull**: 8 May (1) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT), lrs. **Common Tern**: 11 May (1) Shelby Farms (JRW).

Cuckoo - Pipit: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 1 May (1) Madison Co (Ed Conrad); 12 May (1) Shelby Co (MTOS). **Alder Flycatcher**: 11 May (1) Lake Co (MCT, Mike Bernard); 26 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Willow Flycatcher**: 11 May (1) Lake Co (MCT, Mike Bernard); 12 May (2) Carroll Co (MCT); 27 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Western Kingbird**: 2/12 May (1/4) north Memphis (JRW); 10 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 24 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (JRW); 2 May into Jun (nesting pair) President's Is., Shelby Co (JRW, Carolyn Bullock, Virginia Reynolds); 11 May (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Bell's Vireo**: 26-27 May

(1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 11 Mar (1) Memphis (JRW), early West Tenn. **Barn Swallow**: 11 Mar (1) Memphis (JRW), ers. **Brown Creeper**: 17 May (1) North Fork of Obion R., Henry Co (AJT), in cypress swamp. **Marsh Wren**: 26 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT); 30 Apr (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 12 May (1) Shelby Co (MTOS), lrs. **American Pipit**: 24 Apr (6) EARTH Complex (Jay Walko), lrs.

Warbler - Oriole: **Magnolia Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Shelby Co (Rob Peeples), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 27 Apr / 11 May (1) Obion Co (MCT); 9 May (1) Shelby Forest (MTOS). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 23 Apr (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Prairie Warbler**: 28 Apr (50) Henry Co (MCT), max. **Palm Warbler**: 25 Apr (40) Henry Co (MCT), max. **Swainson's Warbler**: 23 Apr (4) Henry Co (MCT); 30 Apr (2) Carroll Co (MCT); 3 May (3) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (Ed Conrad); 12 May (4) Shelby Co (MTOS). **Northern Waterthrush**: 17 Apr (1) Obion Co (MCT), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 13 Mar (1) Shelby Forest (SGS), early West Tenn. **Connecticut Warbler**: 19 May (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Mourning Warbler**: 19 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Wilson's Warbler**: 12 May (1) Shelby Co (MTOS). **Lark Sparrow**: 25 Apr (3) Henry Co (MCT); 11 May (2) Gibson Co (MAG); 19 May (2) Carroll Co (MCT). **Savannah Sparrow**: 20 May (3) EARTH Complex (Carolyn Bullock, Virginia Reynolds), lrs. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 23 Apr (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Orchard Oriole**: 25 Mar (1) Reelfoot L., Lake Co (NaM), early West Tenn.

Locations: EARTH Complex - in Shelby Co; Phillipy - in Lake Co; Shelby Farms / Forest - in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — The three month spring quarter was characterized in the Nashville area by above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The average temperature for March was eight degrees above normal. While April generally produced normal temperatures, a hard freeze on 7-8 April brought record cold temperatures for the month (e.g., 18° F and 13° F on those dates in Lewis County). May returned to the above average pattern, having two-thirds of its daily high temperatures over 80° F. Rainfall deficits occurred in each month and totaled more than 5.5 inches, making precipitation 40% below average for the period.

Goose - Hummingbird: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 20 Apr (1) Cookeville (SJS). **Hooded Merganser**: 19 May (1 female with 6 yg) Sparta, White Co (SJS, Douglas Downs), 4th breeding record in Co. **Common Loon**: 12 May (1) Cumberland R., Montgomery Co (Mike O'Malley), lrs. **Green Heron**: 31 Mar (1) Nashville (LVK), ers. **Bald Eagle**: 16 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 24 Mar (1) Davidson Co (LVK), ers. **Rough-legged Hawk**: 3 Mar (1) Nashville (RHC). **Merlin**: 11 Mar (1) Nashville (LVK). **Black-necked Stilt**: 5 May (1) Maury Co (TAE). **American Avocet**: 1 May (8) Radnor L. (JKS, KB). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 11 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS, Ginger Ensor), ers. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 10 Apr (1) Lewis Co

(WMP), ers. **Willet**: 30 Apr (32) near Cowan, Franklin Co (JLI). **American Woodcock**: 4 Mar (8) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (RHC, Sarah Scott); 29 Mar (ad with 4 yg) Lewis Co (WMP). **Laughing Gull**: 6 May (2) Old Hickory Dam, Davidson & Sumner Cos (Terry Witt). **Forster's Tern**: 22 May (1) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (JLI). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 7 May (1) Radnor L. (FCF, JKS, KB), only report. **Chuck-wills-widow**: 17 Apr (1) Jackson Co (Nancy Layzer), ers; 8 May (1 egg in nest) Rutherford Co (AJT), earlier than first egg date listed in *Breeding Bird Atlas*. **Whip-poor-will**: 27 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 30 Mar (2) Radnor L. (FCF), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 30 Mar (1) DeKalb Co (T&VC), ers.

Flycatcher - Pipit: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 15 May (1) DeKalb Co (JCF), only report. **Willow Flycatcher**: 4 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, Mike Smith), ers. **Least Flycatcher**: 29 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 25 May (1) Rockvale, Rutherford Co (AJT), lrs. **Eastern Kingbird**: 14 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Loggerhead Shrike**: 22 Mar / 3 May (pair) near Cowan, Franklin Co (JLI). **White-eyed Vireo**: 29 Mar (1 / 1) Lewis Co / Davidson Co (WMP / SGS), ers. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 2 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 14 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC, Mike Smith), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 28 Apr (1) Radnor L. (Chris Sloan), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 16 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), ers. **Purple Martin**: 17 Mar (5+) Rutherford Co (JKS, NTOS), ers. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 11 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Cliff Swallow**: 24 Mar (10) Granville, Jackson Co (SJS), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 17 Mar (1) Rutherford Co (JKS, NTOS), ers. **Carolina Wren**: 23 Apr (pair with 5 fledglings) Lynchburg, Moore Co (LJM), earlier than first fledgling date listed in *Breeding Bird Atlas*. **Winter Wren**: 7 May (1) Radnor L. (FCF, JKS), lrs. **Sedge Wren**: 18 Mar (1) Marshall Co (DMo). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 23 Mar (1) Radnor L. (JKS), ers. **Veery**: 27 Apr (1) Radnor L. (RHC), ers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 27 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 30 Mar (1, singing) Haywood Co (WMP), quite early; 2 May (65+) Radnor L. (PDC), max. **Wood Thrush**: 12 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **American Pipit**: 17 Apr (15) White Co (Douglas Downs), lrs.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 1 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Radnor L. (JKS, NTOS), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 17 Mar (1) Stones R. Greenway, Davidson Co (JKS, NTOS); 5 Apr (2) Shelby Park (PDC). **Nashville Warbler**: 6 Apr (2) Moore Co (LJM, Ruth Luckado), ers. **Northern Parula**: 24 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Yellow Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS et al.), ers. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 28 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Ginger Ensor), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 26 Apr (1) Davidson Co (SGS), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Radnor L. (JKS, NTOS), ers; 28 Apr (1) Montgomery Co (Barbara Wilbur). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 7 May (1) Radnor L. (FCF, JKS, KB); 12 May (1) Putnam Co (Joseph Mast). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 27 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (BHS et al.), ers. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 22 Mar (1) Putnam Co (Michael O'Rourke), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 5 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Palm Warbler**: 23 Apr (30+) Radnor L. (KB), max. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 26 Apr (1) Ellington Ag. Center, Davidson Co (JKS), ers. **Black-poll Warbler**: 24 Apr (2) Radnor L. (JKS, KB), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 20 Apr (3) Putnam Co (SJS, Leonardo Chavez), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 24 Mar (1 / 1)

Lewis Co/Putnam Co (WMP/SJS), ers, new early date for Putnam Co. **American Redstart**: 17 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (T&VC), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Radnor L. (JKS), ers. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 14 Apr (1/1) Lewis Co/DeKalb Co (WMP/Winston Walden), ers. **Ovenbird**: 4 Apr (1/1) two sites in Putnam Co (Richard Simmers/BHS), new early date for Co. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 13 Mar (1) Williamson Co (Melinda Welton), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Michael O'Rourke), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 9/21 May (1/3) Radnor L. (PDC, FCF/FCF), ers/max; 13 May (1) Columbia (TAE); 22 May (1) Stones R. National Battlefield, Rutherford Co (TAE). **Mourning Warbler**: 28 Apr (1) Radnor L. (Chris Sloan), ers; 15 May (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Common Yellowthroat**: 30 Mar (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 3 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 11 May (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Canada Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Yellow-breasted Chat** 23 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers.

Tanager - Redpoll: **Summer Tanager**: 18 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS et al.), ers. **Scarlet Tanager**: 17 Apr (2) Radnor L. (JKS, NTOS), ers. **Bachman's Sparrow**: 30 Apr (1) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (DMo). **Vesper Sparrow**: 24 Mar (1) Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **Lark Sparrow**: 22 May (pair) Cedars of Lebanon SP, Wilson Co (TAE). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 16 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (JCF), ers; 7 May (3) Waren Co (Susan McWhirter). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 10 Mar (1) Yanahli WMA, Maury Co (TAE); 26 Mar (1) Marshall Co (DMo); 12 May (2) Putnam Co (BHS), first Co record; 28 May (13 males, 3 yg) Lewis Co (Cynthia Rorhbach, WMP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 23 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers; numerous feeder reports this spring. **Blue Grosbeak**: 23 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 6 Apr (1) Moore Co (LJM, Ruth Luckado), ers. **Dickcissel**: 3 May (3) Franklin Co (JLI); 4 May (1) DeKalb Co (JCF, Carol Williams). **Orchard Oriole**: 16 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (T&VC), ers. **COMMON REDPOLL**: from last period thru 9 Mar (1) Hohenwald, Lewis Co (WMP).

Locations: Cane Cr. Park - in Putnam Co; Radnor L. - in Davidson Co; Shelby Park & Bottoms - in Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — March had well above average temperatures, hinting at an early spring. Some flowers and tree leaves emerged earlier than normal and a few early migrants arrived. However, a hard freeze during 5-9 April, dubbed the "Great Easter Freeze," produced record low temperatures for the month in many areas (e.g., 21° on 8 April in the Tri-Cities). This halted most migrants and killed many leaves and flowers that had emerged. Oaks, poplars and hickories were especially hard hit; most did not leaf out until early or mid May. Fruit, nut, and seed crops were likely ruined for many plants. Late bloomers (e.g., blackberries) and higher elevation areas were largely spared. Late April through May was considerably warmer than average. Following a dry winter, this spring continued quite dry, reaching drought levels in most

areas. Each month received below average rainfall and the season total was only about 50% of normal. For some areas, such as Knoxville and the Tri-Cities, it was the driest spring on record.

Several Greater White-fronted Geese and a Tundra Swan lingered quite late, apparently establishing new late departure dates for both species in Tennessee. Two new nesting colonies of cormorants were discovered in Knox County. Birders found good numbers of rails; shorebird numbers were down, but a few unusual species were seen. As April slowly recovered from the late freeze, passerine migration seemed slower, at least northeastward from Knoxville. With skies generally clear and dry, perhaps many migrants passed over without stopping. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, as well as Indigo Buntings, were drawn to sunflower seed feeders in large numbers, apparently in response to freeze-related food shortages. Four reports of Connecticut Warblers in Hamilton County may be a single season maximum there. Eared Grebe (two reports), Glossy Ibis, Common Moorhen, Baird's Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope were all noteworthy regional finds this spring.

Goose - Cormorant: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: thru 2 May (1) Steele Cr. Park, Bristol (LCM); 13 May (2) Spring City, Rhea Co (DJ & Kay Stanley - photo); 30 Apr - 18 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu, DHM, DK); all exceptionally late. **Snow Goose**: 30 Mar (1) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Cackling Goose**: 6/27 Mar (1) Steele Cr. Park, Bristol (LCM), late. **Tundra Swan**: 21 Apr/11 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu), exceptionally late. **Gadwall**: thru season (1 male) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP), lrs. **Canvasback**: 16 Apr/15 May (1) Eagle Bend (AJT), lrs. **Redhead**: 6 Mar (160) Fort Loudoun L. (SHo), max. **Greater Scaup**: 14 Apr (1) Upper Douglas L. (DHM), lrs. **Lesser Scaup**: 29 May (3) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), lrs. **Surf Scoter**: 19 Mar (6) Chickamauga L. (KAC). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 16 May (1) Hawkins Co (DK), lrs. **Ruddy Duck**: 28 Apr (1) John Sevier L. (SHu), lrs. **Common Loon**: 12 May (1) Cherokee L., Jefferson Co portion (KDE); 26 May (1) Austin Springs (DAH, Dianne Draper), lingered into Jun. **Eared Grebe**: 13 Mar (4) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG); 29 Mar (6) Fort Loudoun L. (SHo). **American White Pelican**: 26 Mar (11) Fort Loudoun L. (Fred Symonds fide Marcia Davis); 18-19 Apr (8) John Sevier L. (SHu). **Double-crested Cormorant**: 29 Apr (~20 nests) Melton Hill L., Knox Co (Wes James); 11 May (1 on nest, others nest-building) Lyon's Is., Fort Loudoun L. (Chris Welsh); 24 May (~70 nests with large yg) "Bird Is.", (RLK, MBS, LJG); first two nesting sites are new while latter one has doubled in size from last year.

Bittern - Falcon: **American Bittern**: 20 Mar/1 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Jack Leather/KAC); 21 Mar/13-28 Apr (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM). **Least Bittern**: 30 Apr thru season (4 active nests found 29 May) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP, m.ob.). **Great Egret**: 24 May (10) "Bird Is.", (RLK, MBS, LJG), no evidence of nesting this year; 25 May (23) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), max. **Snowy Egret**: 3 May (1) John Sevier L. (DK). **Little Blue Heron**: 19/28 Apr (1 ad/2 ad) separate Hawkins Co sites (DK/SHu); 7/22 May (1 ad/1 im) Eagle Bend (James & Betty Reid Campbell/Carole Gobert); 12 May (2) Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co (Clyde Blum, Gary Brunvoll); 23 May (1 ad) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 25 May (1 ad) Rankin

Bottoms (MBS, LJG); better than average numbers for spring. **Cattle Egret**: 14/15 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (Clyde Blum/KAC, DRJ); 7/25 May (1) Upper Douglas L./Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 24 May (25+ nests) "Bird Is.", (RLK, MBS, LJG); 29 May (14) Upper Douglas L (MBS, LJG); 30 May (30+ ad, 3 nests) John Sevier Fossil Plant, Hawkins Co (SHu). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 21 Mar thru season (5 nests/2 nests) separate Kingsport sites (RAP/RLK); 1 Apr/12 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC); 2 Apr (2 at nest) Bristol (fide Jeremy Stout, LCM). **GLOSSY IBIS**: 7-10 May (2) Upper Douglas L. (MBS - photo, LJG). **Osprey**: thru season (8 occupied nests) Upper Douglas L. area (MBS, LJG). **Bald Eagle**: thru season (nest with 2 yg) Parksville L., Polk Co (Doug Geren). **Northern Harrier**: 15 May (1) Washington Co (DAH), lrs. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 21 Mar (1) Greene Co (DAH), ers; 21 Apr (23) Soddy Mtn., Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson), max.. **Merlin**: 7/22 Apr (1) separate Greene Co sites (DHM); 9 Apr (1) Bristol (LCM). **Peregrine Falcon**: thru season (pair, 1 yg seen 30 May) Chickamauga Dam (m.ob.); 6 Apr (1) Knoxville (KDE).

Rail - Tern: **Virginia Rail**: thru season (max 4 on 19 Apr) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP, m.ob.); 21 Mar - 29 May (1-4, including 3 im on latter date) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM, DK); 10 Apr (1) Meadowview Marsh, Kingsport (RAP); 3 May (4) Phipps Bend (DK); 5 May (1) Bristol (LCM et al.). **Sora**: 18 Apr (1) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT); 18-28 Apr/29 May (1-2/1, possibly im) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM/DK); 19-30 Apr (3-4) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP, KAC et al.); 22 Apr (5) Kyker Bottoms (DJT, Mike Nelson); 26 Apr (1) Phipps Bend (DK); 28 Apr - 4 May (1) Meadowview Marsh, Kingsport (RAP); 28 Apr (1) Austin Springs (RLK et al.). **Common Moorhen**: 17-18 May (1) John Sevier L. (DK/DHM). **American Coot**: 29 May (1) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), lrs. **Whooping Crane**: 11 Mar (1, with bands) Looney Is., Knox Co (Marcia Davis); 17-23 Mar (1, with bands) Cumberland Co (Janet Dowlen fide SJS); both undoubtedly from Operation Migration. **Black-bellied Plover**: 29 May (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM). **American Golden-Plover**: 25 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Semipalmated Plover**: 13 May (17) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT), max. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 29 May (2) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DK, DHM), lrs. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 27 Apr (75+) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), max; 29 May (2) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DK, DHM), lrs. **Upland Sandpiper**: 16 Apr (1) Eagle Bend (AJT); 1 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Carol Fegarido, Libby Wolfe). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 15 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS - photo, LJG), only report. **Baird's Sandpiper**: 25-27 May (1) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (KAC, DRJ), rare in spring. **Dunlin**: 30 Mar (2) Upper Douglas L. (RLK); 6 Apr (1) Meigs Co (AJT); 18 Apr/16 May (1/35) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT/Frank Bills); 23 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 18 Apr (1) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT); 7 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Richard Schier). **American Woodcock**: 20 May (1) Knox Co (KDE). **Red-necked Phalarope**: 25 May (1 female) Hawkins Co (Bruce Cole, photo). **Laughing Gull**: 28 May/4 Jun (1) Kingsport/John Sevier L. (RAP/SHu), probably same bird, as both sites are only a few miles apart on the Holston R. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 6 May (2) John Sevier L. (SHu), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 14 Apr (9) Hamilton Co (CDB, Bob Edens). **Black Tern**: 13 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu), only

report. **Common Tern**: 28 May (1) Fort Loudoun L. (KDE). **Forster's Tern**: 5 Apr/4 May/15 May (1-6) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG); 14 Apr (2) Austin Springs (RLK); 19 Apr/13 May (6/5) John Sevier L. (DK/SHu); 12 May (2) Cherokee L. Jefferson Co portion (KDE); 12 May (9) Chickamauga L. (DRJ, RJH).

Cuckoo - Pipit: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 25 Apr (1) Bristol (LCM); 29 Apr/5 May (1) Knox Co (DJT et al./Frank Bills); 8 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (CDB, Carol Fegarido). **Barn Owl**: 4 May (1) Greene Co (DHM); 12 May (1) Jefferson Co (KDE). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 19 May (1) Craven's House (KAC). **Willow Flycatcher**: 8 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (CDB et al.); 23/26 May (1-2) separate Greene Co sites (DHM); 29 May (1) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG); likely breeders. **White-eyed Vireo**: 3 Apr (1) Knox Co (SHo), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 21 Apr (1) Washington Co (RLK), ers; 8 May (1) Knoxville (Chris Welsh), rare there. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 12 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH), only report. **Fish Crow**: late Mar (2) Knox Co (SHo). **Common Raven**: 5 Mar (2) Kingsport (RLK); 21 Mar/28 Apr (1/2) separate Washington Co sites (RLK); 30 Mar/7 Apr (2) Bristol (LCM/FRC). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 16 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Bank Swallow**: 15 Apr (2) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (CDB, KAC, DRJ), record early for Co.; 12 May (2+/25+) Knox Co/Jefferson Co (KDE), at traditional colony sites; 23 May (5+ nest burrows) Nolichucky R., Greene Co (DAH), new site. **Cliff Swallow**: 21 Mar (12) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 28 Apr (3) Greene Co (DHM). **Marsh Wren**: 15/19 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, CDB/DEP); 4 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 20 Apr (2) Craven's House (SGS), record early for Co. **Hermit Thrush**: 25 Apr (1) Johnson City (RLK), lrs. **Wood Thrush**: 7 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Nell Moore), ers. **American Pipit**: 15 May (1) Greene Co (DAH), lrs.

Warbler - Oriole : **Golden-winged Warbler**: 23 Apr (1) Johnson City (LCM). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 10 Apr (3 banded) Hamilton Co (David Aborn). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 30 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC, CDB, Jim Eager); 10 May (3) Knoxville (KDE), good number there. **Prairie Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Kingsport (John Moyle), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 12-24 Apr (5 reports of 1-4) Craven's House (KAC et al.), good showing there; 3 reports in Greene Co (DHM); no reports in Tri-Cities area. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM), ers; also reported from Kyker Bottoms, New Market in Jefferson Co, Rankin Bottoms, John Sevier L, Phipps Bend, & Austin Springs (m.ob.), good showing. **Swainson's Warbler**: 17 Apr/11-20 May (1) Audubon Acres, Hamilton Co (WMP/Betty Wampler et al.); 24 May (1) Pickett Co (Robbie Hassler). **Connecticut Warbler**: 9/23 May (2 banded) Hamilton Co (David Aborn); 18-19 May (1/1) separate Hamilton Co sites (David Vogt/KAC, CDB et al.); 20 May (1) Anderson Co (Charles Nicholson). **Mourning Warbler**: 19 May (1) Craven's House (KAC, CDB et al.); 20 May (1) Knox Co (KDE). **Wilson's Warbler**: 12 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH); 16 May (1) Anderson Co (James Campbell); 22 May (1) Knox Co (KDE). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: late Apr thru mid May, numerous reports at feeders, seemingly well above average numbers, may indicate food shortages related to the Easter freeze. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 22 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms (DJT, Mike Nelson).

Lincoln's Sparrow: 29 Apr (1) Knox Co (KDE); 30 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC, Jim Eager); rare in spring. **White-crowned Sparrow**: 24 May (1) Hamilton Co (David Aborn), lrs. **Baltimore Oriole**: 5 May (22) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Jim Peters), attracted to orange halves; there were increased reports at some feeders for this species also, likely due to freeze related food shortages.

Locations: Austin Springs - in Washington Co; "Bird Is." - in Cherokee L., Hamblen Co portion; Chickamauga L. - in Hamilton Co; Craven's House - unit of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park in Hamilton Co; Eagle Bend - fish hatchery in Anderson Co; Fort Loudoun L. - Knox Co portion; John Sevier L. - in Hawkins Co; Kingston Steam Plant - in Roane Co; Kyker Bottoms - in Blount Co; Phipps Bend - in Hawkins Co; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - in Hamilton Co; Upper Douglas L. - in Cocke & Jefferson Cos; Wal-Mart Distribution Center - in Greene Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — This period was characterized by drought and a late heavy freeze. Vegetation was stunted and late developing as a result. Daily temperatures in March were on average six degrees above normal. April was below normal, with a freeze on five straight nights beginning on the 6th. Temperatures were in the 20s on each of those nights in lower elevations and in the teens at times in higher elevations. May was about three degrees above normal. Precipitation was nearly seven inches below normal for the period.

The warm temperatures of March seemed to influence the early arrival of some species. The April freeze, with its effects on vegetation, then appeared to hold back the main thrust of migration. Tennessee's first documented nesting of a Pine Siskin occurred on Roan Mountain, where a previous nest in 1993 was on the North Carolina side.

Goose - Falcon: **Snow Goose**: 15/18 Mar (1) Watauga R (BKS et al.). **Surf Scoter**: 29 Mar - 11 Apr (1 female) South Holston R. weir (RLK, m.ob.); 16 Apr (1 female) South Holston L (RLK), probably same bird, new late date for NE Tenn. **Bufflehead**: 3 Mar (107) Cades Cove (WB). **Common Goldeneye**: 6 Mar (13) S. Holston L. (BKS et al.). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 11 Mar - 20 Apr (several reports, max 47) S. Holston L. (RLK, m.ob.). **Red-throated Loon**: 16-17 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (RLK, m.ob.). **Horned Grebe**: 16 Mar/20 Apr (16/3) S. Holston L. (RLK), max/lrs. **Eared Grebe**: 6 Mar/7 Apr (7/1) S. Holston L. (BKS et al./FRC), max/lrs. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 7 Apr (117) S. Holston L. (FRC), max. **Great Blue Heron**: 28 Apr (4 nests each at 2 sites) Unicoi Co (JHM, DAH et al.), first nests in Co. "**Great White Heron**": from last period, 10-27 Mar (1) Little R., Blount Co (WB). **Great Egret**: 5/19 Apr (1/2) Watauga R. (BKS/RLK); 28 Apr (1) Watauga L., Johnson Co portion (TSM et al.). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 24 Mar thru season (up to 5-6 nests at 3 sites) Watauga R. at Elizabethton (DAH, RLK, m.ob.). **Osprey**: 15 Mar (1) Watauga R. (Brookie & Jean Potter), ers. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair back for second spring

season in Holston Valley (RPL). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 2 Apr (1) Buffalo Mtn (RLK), ers. **Merlin**: 28 Apr (1) Carter Co (GOW et al.). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3 Mar (1) Cades Cove (WB); 28 Apr (1) near Flag Pond, Unicoi Co (JHM, DAH et al.); 6 May (1) near Greenbrier, Great Smoky Mtns N.P. (SHo, Kris Johnson).

Rail - Tern: **Virginia Rail**: 8 Apr (2) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley (TSM); 22 Apr - 5 May (2+) Quarry Bog in Shady Valley (TSM, m.ob.). **Sora**: 22 Apr - 5 May (1-2) Quarry Bog in Shady Valley (TSM, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plover**: 15 May (2) S. Holston L. (BKS et al.); 19 May (1) near Elizabethton (BKS et al.). **Dunlin**: 15 May (1) S. Holston L. (BKS, Reece Jamerson, Gil Derouen). **American Woodcock**: 17 May (1 ad, 2 yg) S. Holston R. weir (Kevin Hamed). **Laughing Gull**: 16 May (1) S. Holston L. (FRC). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 3 May (1) S. Holston L. (RLK), lrs. **Ring-billed Gull**: 16 May (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), lrs. **Herring Gull**: 16 Mar (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (BKS), unusual there; 1 Apr (7) S. Holston L. (RLK), max. **Caspian Tern**: 7 Apr - 4 May (1-4) S. Holston L. (FRC, m.ob.); 28 Apr (3) near Elizabethton (BKS et al.). **Common Tern**: 21 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (FRC). **Forster's Tern**: 28 Apr/16 May (1/2) S. Holston L. (FRC/RLK).

Dove - Thrush: **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: thru season (2-4) Carter Co (TSM, m.ob.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 21 Apr (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (Rob Biller, NDS), ers. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 8 May (1) Elizabethton (RLK); 11/14 May (1) Roan Mtn (BKS et al./DK). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 24 Apr (2) Clingman's Dome Road, Great Smoky Mtns N.P. (Andy Jones); 28 Apr (1) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (JHM); 1 May thru season (1-2) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.). **Whip-poor-will**: 25 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (Brookie & Jean Potter), new early arrival date by 5 days in NE Tenn. **Rufous Hummingbird**: 10 Apr (1) Elizabethton (fide BKS), lrs. **Alder Flycatcher**: 11 May (1) Roan Mtn (Brenda Hull), ties early arrival date; 12 May thru season (1-3) Hampton Cr. Cove (NDS, m.ob.). **Willow Flycatcher**: 12 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (NDS), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 21 Mar (1) Buffalo Mtn (RLK), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 11 May (1) near Elizabethton (TSM), rare in spring in NE Tenn. **Common Raven**: 26 Apr (5 yg in nest) Devil's Looking Glass, Unicoi Co (RLK). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 20 Mar (1) Elizabethton (RLK), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 3 Apr (1) Elizabethton (GOW), new early arrival date by 17 days in NE Tenn; 26 May (1 banded) Holston Valley (RPL, FRC), lrs.

Warbler - Siskin: **Golden-winged Warbler**: late May (16 territorial males) Hampton Cr. Cove (NDS, m.ob.). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 3/30 Mar (1) S. Holston R. weir (Ken Oeser/LCM). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 27 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (GOW), ties early arrival date in NE Tenn. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 27 Mar (2) Wilbur L. (GOW), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 27 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (GOW), new early arrival date by 4 days in NE Tenn. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) S. Holston R. weir (RLK), first record there. **Swainson's Warbler**: 28 Apr (1) near Erwin, Unicoi Co (JHM, DAH et al.); 5/12 May (2) Bald Mtn., Greene Co (DHM); 6 May (2) Shady Valley (RLK, m.ob.); 26 May (3) Limestone Cove, Unicoi Co (BKS, Reece Jamerson, Gil Derouen). **Ovenbird**: 1 Apr (1) Weaver's Bend, Cocke Co (Dianne Draper), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 26 May (1 banded) Holston Valley (RPL, FRC), lrs. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 25 Mar (2) Buffalo Mtn (RLK), ers.

Wilson's Warbler: 28 Apr (1) Carter Co (GOW et al.); 6 May (1) Great Smoky Mtns N.P. (SHo). **Canada Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Watauga L., Carter Co portion (TSM), new early arrival date by 2 days in NE Tenn. **Scarlet Tanager**: 14 Apr (2) Cades Cove (WB), ers. **Vesper Sparrow**: 7 Apr (1) Cades Cove (WB). **Fox Sparrow**: 28 Apr (1) Shady Valley (FRC), late. **Rusty Blackbird**: 28 Apr (2) Watauga R. (GOW), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: thru season (10+) Roan Mtn summit (RLK); 5/19 May (nest building/1 egg in nest) "Hummingbird Hill" on Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft elevation (AJT, m.ob./Rob Biller, NDS), nest later found damaged & abandoned, first Tenn nest.

Locations: Buffalo Mtn - in Washington Co; Cades Cove - in Great Smoky Mtns N.P.; Hampton Cr. Cove - in Carter Co; Holston Valley - in Sullivan Co; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co; South Holston L. - in Sullivan Co; South Holston R. - in Sullivan Co; Watauga R. - in Carter Co; Wilbur L. - in Carter Co.

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